

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /064 W

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R 251115Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4899

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 0192

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIMIN

REF: SANAA 0102

1. AS REPORTED BY AFP, SANAA RADIO ANNOUNCED AFTERNOON JANUARY 23 THAT GOVERNOR OF CENTGQL BANK ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI HAD BEEN APPOINTED PRIMIN BY PRESIDENT HAMD. HE IS NOW IN PROCESS OF FORMING CABINET, PRESUMABLY OF TECHNOCRATS.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS THAT HAMD WISHED AVOID APPOINTING RIGHT-WING POLITICALLY-STRONG PRIMIN, APPOINTMENT OF ABD AL-GHANI HAS BEEN A DISTINCT SURPRISE LOCALLY. HIS NAME SURFACED ONLY TWENTY-FOUR HOURS BEFORE APPOINTMENT, INDICATING A LAST-MINUTE COMPROMISE.

3. ABD AL-GHANI IS ONE OF YAR'S MOST COMPETENT ECONOMISTS (M.A. FROM UNIV. OF COLORADO CA. 1962) AND HAS SERVED AS CENTRAL  
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BANK GOVERNOR SINCE AUGUST 1971, WHERE HE HAS ESTABLISHED

REPUTATION FOR FAIRNESS AND COMPETENCE. HE IS STRAIGHT-FORWARD, QUIET TO POINT OF SHYNESS, AND HAS NOT SHOWN ANY GREAT INTEREST IN OR FLAIR FOR YAR CABINET POLITICS, DESPITE TWO TERMS AS MINHEALTH AND MINECON IN 1967 AND 1971. HE WAS RUMORED AS POTENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR SHAFAT SEAT IN REPUBLICAN COUNCIL IN MONTHS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING JUNE 1974 CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT, BUT THIS WAS ATTRIBUTED BY OBSERVERS TO DESIRE OF EX-HODEIDA GOVERNOR SINAN ABU LUHUM TO INSTALL POLITICALLY WEAK SHAFATIS IN COUNCIL IN ORDER TO DOMINATE SHAFAT GOVERNORATES (HODEIDA, TAIZ, AND IBB) HIMSELF. ALTHOUGH

HE HAS NOT ACTIVELY ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH ANY POLITICAL ELEMENTS, HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES IN GOVT ARE PRO-WESTERN MODERNISTS LEGAL ADVISER HUSAYN AL-HUBAYSHI (WITH WHOM HE TAUGHT SCHOOL IN ADEN 1962-64), MINCOMMO ASNAG, MINSTATE FOR DEVELOPMENT DR. IRYANI, AND MINSTATE FOR SERVICES SA'ID. HE HAS BEEN GOOD FRIEND OF EMBASSY AND UNIFORMLY HELPFUL IN PROVIDING ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION WHENEVER REQUESTED.

4. WE WILL RESERVE FURTHER COMMENT PENDING APPOINTMENT OF CABINET, EXCEPT TO NOTE RESERVATION THAT ABD AL-GHANI UNLIKELY TO BE STRONG PRIMIN.  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Subject:** APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIMIN  
**TAGS:** PINT, YE, (AL-GHANI, ABD AL-AZIZ ABD)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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